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H.259

Introduced by Representatives Huntley of Cavendish, Bancroft of Westford,
Baser of Bristol, Batchelor of Derby, Beck of St. Johnsbury,
Beyor of Highgate, Bissonnette of Winooski, Burditt of
West Rutland, Canfield of Fair Haven, Cupoli of Rutland City,
Dakin of Chester, Dakin of Colchester, Dame of Essex,
Devereux of Mount Holly, Gage of Rutland City, Gamache of
Swanton, Graham of Williamstown, Hebert of Vernon, Higley
of Lowell, Juskiewicz of Cambridge, LaClair of Barre Town,
Lawrence of Lyndon, Lewis of Berlin, Marcotte of Coventry,
McCoy of Poultney, McFaun of Barre Town, Morrissey of
Bennington, Murphy of Fairfax, Myers of Essex, Parent of
St. Albans City, Purvis of Colchester, Quimby of Concord,
Russell of Rutland City, Savage of Swanton, Shaw of Pittsford,
Shaw of Derby, Stevens of Waterbury, Strong of Albany,
Terenzini of Rutland Town, Toleno of Brattleboro, Turner of
Milton, Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh, Viens of Newport City,
Willhoit of St. Johnsbury, Wright of Burlington, and Young of
Glover

Referred to Committee on
Date:

1 Subject: Motor vehicles; law enforcement vehicles; fire department vehicles;
2 EMS service vehicles; lights

3 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to authorize the
4 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to issue a permit for:

5 (1) the use of red or amber signal lights on law enforcement
6 vehicles; and

7 (2) the use of one blue light on a fire department or EMS vehicle,
8 provided the light is mounted so as to be visible primarily from the rear of the
9 vehicle.

10 An act relating to the use of colored lights on law enforcement, fire
11 department, and emergency service vehicles

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 1252 is amended to read:

14 § 1252. ISSUANCE OF PERMITS FOR SIRENS OR COLORED LAMPS,
15 OR BOTH; USE OF AMBER LAMPS

16 (a) When satisfied as to the condition and use of the vehicle, the
17 Commissioner shall issue and may revoke, for cause, permits for sirens or
18 colored signal lamps in the following manner:

19 (1)(A) Sirens or blue ~~or blue and~~, red, amber, or white signal lamps, or a
20 combination of these, may be authorized for all law enforcement vehicles

1 owned or leased by a law enforcement agency, a certified law enforcement
2 officer, or the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council. If the applicant is a
3 constable, the application shall be accompanied by a certification by the town
4 clerk that the applicant is the duly elected or appointed constable and attesting
5 that the town has not voted to limit the constable's authority to engage in
6 enforcement activities under 24 V.S.A. § 1936a.

7 (B) One blue signal lamp may be authorized for use on a vehicle
8 owned or leased by a fire department or on an emergency medical service
9 (EMS) vehicle, provided that the Commissioner shall require the lamp to be
10 mounted so as to be visible primarily from the rear of the vehicle.

11 (2) Sirens and red or red and white signal lamps may be authorized for
12 all ambulances and other emergency medical service vehicles, fire ~~apparatus~~
13 department vehicles, vehicles used solely in rescue operations, or vehicles
14 owned or leased by, or provided to, volunteer firefighters and voluntary rescue
15 squad members, including a vehicle owned by a volunteer's employer when
16 the volunteer has the written authorization of the employer to use the vehicle
17 for emergency fire or rescue activities.

18 (3) ~~No vehicle may be authorized a permit for more than one of the~~
19 ~~combinations described in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection.~~

20 [Repealed.]

1 (4) No motor vehicle, other than one owned by the applicant, shall be
2 issued a permit until the Commissioner has recorded the information regarding
3 both the owner of the vehicle and the applicant for the permit.

4 (5) Upon application to the Commissioner, the Commissioner may issue
5 a single permit for all the vehicles owned or leased by the applicant.

6 (6) Sirens and red or red and white signal lamps, or sirens and blue or
7 blue and white signal lamps, may be authorized for restored emergency or
8 enforcement vehicles used for exhibition purposes. Sirens and lamps
9 authorized under this subdivision may only be activated during an exhibition,
10 such as a car show or parade.

11 * * *

12 Sec. 2. 23 V.S.A. § 1255 is amended to read:

13 § 1255. EXCEPTIONS

14 ~~(1)(a)~~ The provisions of section 1251 of this title shall not apply to
15 directional signal lamps of a type approved by the ~~commissioner of motor~~
16 ~~vehicles~~ Commissioner.

17 ~~(2)(b)~~ All persons with motor vehicles equipped as provided in ~~subdivision~~
18 subdivisions 1252(a)(1) and (2) of this title, shall use the sirens or colored
19 signal lamps, or both, only in the direct performance of their official duties.
20 When any person other than a law enforcement officer, firefighter, or
21 emergency medical service (EMS) responder is operating a motor vehicle

1 equipped as provided in subdivision 1252(a)(1) of this title, the colored signal
2 lamp shall be either removed, covered, or hooded. When any person, other
3 than an authorized ~~ambulance~~ EMS vehicle operator, firefighter, or authorized
4 operator of vehicles used in a rescue operation, is operating a motor vehicle
5 equipped as provided in subdivision 1252(a)(2) of this title, the colored signal
6 lamps shall be either removed, covered, or hooded unless the operator holds a
7 senior operator license.

8 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

9 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.